

parameter. Instead, it comprises sensing a piston parameter, namely, a relative displacement of the piston 25, see col. 4, lines 31-36.

The tension variables are calculated based on the measurement of X. An initial tensioning force T_i is a predetermined value stored in the ROM, col. 6, lines 9-15. An optimum tensioning force T_R is selected from a characteristic curve, col. 8, lines 19-24. A maximum tensioning force T_{max} is stored in the ROM for comparison with T, col. 8, lines 51-61. A minimum tensioning force T_{min} is stored in the ROM for comparison with T as well, col. 8, lines 66-68. Each of these tension variable are either calculated or selected from memory, none are measured by a sensor. Since none of these variables are measured by a sensor, none comprise a sensor signal generated by a sensor.

The inventive system claims sensing a drive member parameter. A sensor signal is generated by a sensor sensing the drive member parameter, and this signal is used to adjust a drive member tension. For example, sensor 22 comprises a load cell for detecting a belt load, page 6, lines 7-9. Sensor 46 detects a load exerted on an idler, page 6, lines 9-10.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's over-broad characterization of Hayakawa at col. 4, lines 40-65 by arguing it teaches the limitation relating to a sensor detecting the drive member parameter. A close inspection of the disclosed variables in col. 4, lines 40-65 reveals they only comprise a fluid pressure P generated from the power steering pump, col. 4, lines 43-46; an electric load current I_A from the alternator, col. 4, lines 46-49; and piston displacement X. None of these comprises a drive member parameter, but instead comprise a power steering pump parameter, an alternator parameter and a piston parameter. The piston parameter is discussed above. Hence, the claimed limitation is not taught.

Claims 2-7 either depend directly or ultimately from claim 1.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8.

As to claim 10, Hayakawa does not teach sensing a belt tension using a sensor as argued above. Claims 11-12 and 14-16 depend directly or ultimately from claim 10.

As to claim 17, Hayakawa does not teach sensing a drive member tension using a sensor as argued above. Claims 18-20 depend directly or ultimately from claim 17.

Claims 22-28 depend directly or ultimately from claim 21.

Claims 30-32 depend directly or ultimately from claim 29.

As to claim 33, in addition to the foregoing arguments, Hayakawa does not teach measuring a first accessory hubload nor does it teach measuring a second accessory hubload. The Examiner cites col. 7, lines 22-42, however, the cited section only refers to the variables noted above, namely, P, I_A and X. Per the foregoing argument, none of these variables represent or comprise a hubload, "Hubload" refers to the load imposed on a pulley by a belt tension, application page 11, lines 23-24.

Claims 34-39 depend directly or ultimately from claim 33.

Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection as to all claims.

2. Claim 5-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al in view of Kouno et al (US 5,085,104).

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 1.

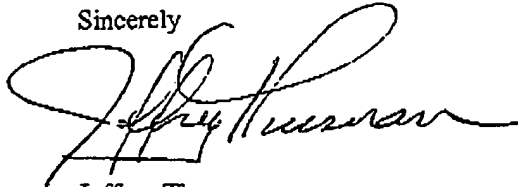
Claim 13 depends from claim 10.

V. Fees

Any fees applicable to this amendment should be deducted from deposit account 07-0475 in the name of the Gates Corporation. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application to allowance.

Thank you for your attention to this case.

Sincerely



Jeffrey Thurnau
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,183
303 744-4743

Date: Jan 22, 2004

26683

26683

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE